Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ERDA-05 OIC-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 BIB-01

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CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 4391

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE POLICY: RADIO BROADCASTING

REF: GENEVA 4317

1. UK REP HAS NOW PROPOSED TO US SUBSTITUTING PHRASE " AND EXPECT IT TO CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES" FOR LATTER PART OF PRESENT COMPROMISE TEXT ON BROADCASTING (SEE GENEVA 4229), SO THAT TEXT WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE PARTICIPATING STATES NOTE THE EXPANSION IN THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION BROADCASE BY RADIO, EXPRESS THE HOPE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THIS PROCESS, AND EXPECT IT TO CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES. UNQUOTE. FRG REP, BASING HIMSELF ON INFORMAL REACTIONS AT "TECHNICAL LEVEL" IN BONN, HAS SUPPORTED UK TEXT. (FRG REP TOLD US QUESTION OF WHETHER OUR COMPROMISE TEXT CAN BE ACCEPTED IS UNDER REVIEW AT A HIGHER LEVEL, AND DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN). DUTCH REP ALSO HAD RESERVATION EALIER ON OUR COMPROMISE CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT DUTCH DELEGATION HEAD HAS TOLD US HE IS

PERSUADED BY OUR ARGUMENTS AND WILL TRY TO GET HIS INSTRUCTIONS CHANGED.

- 2. WE BELIEVE UK TEXT IS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE FROM WESTERN POINT OF VIEW THAN COMPROMISE TEXT WHICH SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED. WORD "EXPECT" IS VERY CLOSE TO IDEA OF HOPE, AND PHRASE "EXPECT" IT TO CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" COULD BE READ TO REFER TO "INFORMATION BROADCAST BY RADIO", THUS CLEARLY IMPLYING RESPONSIBILITY AND CONTROL OVER CONTENT OF PROGRAMMING. EVEN IF THIS LATTER PROBLEM WERE REMEDIED, USE OF WORD "EXPECT" WOULD IMPLY RESPONSIBILITY IN A BROAD SENSE WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN RESPONSIBILITY ON BOTH SIDES (I.E. IN PROGRAMMING).
- 3. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPLAINED OUR VIEWPOINT TO UK REP HERE, AND HAVE STRESSED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO ACHIEVING A REASONABLE TEXT ON THIS SUBJECT. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT COMPROMISE TEXT IS BETTER THAN WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED, AND THAT BRITISH THEMSELVES WERE EARLIER PREPARED TO ACCEPT A WORSE TEXT. WE HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS TEXT WILL BE USEFUL TO US IN COMBATTING ATTEMPTS IN CONGRESS TO CUT BACK ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR OVERSEAS BROADCASTING, SINCE BREZHNEV'S SIGNATURE ON IT WILL SERVE AS CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT OUR BROADCASTING IS COMPATIBLE WITH DETENTE. WE HAVE NOTED THAT THIS ASPECT ALONG COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FREER MOVEMENT OF IDEAS.
- 4. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT THINK THE ABOVE TEXT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED, SINCE A BETTER RESULT IS ALREADY IN HAND. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT USE A SUITABLE OCCASION TO STRESS TO UK AND FRG EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON OUR INTEREST IN OBTAINING AGREEMENT ON THE PRESENT COMPROMISE TEXT ON THIS SUBJECT. DALE

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